

# Guide to the Edward Grant Oral History Project Records

MS 1805



compiled by Christine Weideman and staff of Manuscripts and Archives

May 2002

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	9

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1805

**CREATOR:** Ruben, Justin

**TITLE:** Edward Grant Oral History Project records

**DATES:** 2001-2002

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.85 Gigabytes

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Thirteen hours of interviews, done in 2001-2002 by Justin Ruben, with Edward Grant, New Haven African-American activist; photocopies of Ruben's interview notes; and "The Sometimes Angry Not So Young Black Man of New Haven," a paper written by Ruben for History 454a (graduate course in American history), based on the Grant interviews.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1805>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1805>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Justin Ruben, 2002.

---

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research. Original computer files may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult access copies.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright to Justin Ruben's interview questions, interview notes, and paper based on interviews is retained by Ruben during his lifetime, after which it will be transferred to the Yale University Library. Copyright to Edward Grant's answers to interview questions is retained by Grant during his lifetime, after which it will be transferred to the Yale University Library. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

## Preferred Citation

Edward Grant Oral History Project Records. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Processing Information

This material was imaged or captured by Manuscripts and Archives staff in 2007 and 2020 for preservation access. The interviews were originally recorded on microcassette and were transferred during processing to digital audio files, with use copies available on compact disc. During the transfer, the digital audio stream was processed, using standard software, to remove noise. The original cassettes were returned to Justin Ruben. Additional information about actions taken may be available at the repository.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Justin Ruben obtained his Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 2002. As part of his course work, he took History 454a, for which he conducted interviews of Edward Grant in 2001.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Edward B. Grant, an African American man, was born in New Haven in 1922. He was a noted leader of several African American community and neighborhood groups in New Haven, such as the Black Coalition and the Angry Young Black Men. He is well known for co-founding the Freddy (sometimes spelled Freddie) Fixer Parade, which began in 1962 as a cleanup campaign of the Dixwell and Newhallville neighborhoods and is now one of the oldest Black American parades in the northeast. For Grant, environmental activism and social justice work went hand in hand, and his involvement with environmental justice work continued until his death on January 1, 2010.

Biographical information about Edward B. Grant is primarily drawn from: "Freddie Fixer Passes," New Haven Independent online, January 5, 2010 [https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/obituaries/entry/freddie\\_fixer\\_passes/](https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/obituaries/entry/freddie_fixer_passes/) and "About Us," Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade. Accessed July 1, 2020. <https://www.elmcityfreddyfixerparade.com/about-us>.

## Scope and Contents

The records include photocopies of Ruben's interview notes, his paper, and digital reproductions of audio recordings of his interviews of Edward Grant. The interviews provide an extensive profile of Grant's life in New Haven, Connecticut. Grant describes the following topics in detail: what it was like growing up Black in New Haven during the 1930s to 1940s and the racism and segregation he experienced; his time in the military during World War II; his early activism with local groups such as the Wider City Parish, Dixwell Neighborhood Council, and Redevelopment Agency; and how he came to be the head of the Freddie (Freddy) Fixer Parade.

---

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Ruben interview notes	2001-2002
b. 1, f. 2	"The Sometimes Angry Not So Young Black Man of New Haven" English	2001
	Interviews	2001-2002
	Original computer files may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult access copies.	
b. 2	Disk 1 2002-m-084-002 1 CD-R 60:23:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (609.49 Megabytes) <a href="#">[Aviary] ms_1805_2002-m-084-002</a> As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access	
b. 3	Disk 2 2002-m-084-003 1 CD-R 57:09:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (576.99 Megabytes) <a href="#">[Aviary] ms_1805_2002-m-084-003</a> As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access	
b. 4	Disk 3 2002-m-084-004 1 CD-R 60:46:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (613.41 Megabytes) <a href="#">[Aviary] ms_1805_2002-m-084-004</a> As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access	
b. 5	Disk 4 2002-m-084-005 1 CD-R 60:05:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (606.49 Megabytes) <a href="#">[Aviary] ms_1805_2002-m-084-005</a> As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access	
b. 6	Disk 5 2002-m-084-006 1 CD-R 59:10:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (597.25 Megabytes) <a href="#">[Aviary] ms_1805_2002-m-084-006</a> As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access	

- b. 7                   Disk 6  
2002-m-084-007  
1 CD-R 59:00:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (595.69 Megabytes)  
[\[Aviary\] ms\\_1805\\_2002-m-084-007](#)  
As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) to request access
- 
- b. 8                   Disk 7  
2002-m-084-008  
1 CD-R 60:23:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (609.49 Megabytes)  
[\[Aviary\] ms\\_1805\\_2002-m-084-008](#)  
As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) to request access
- 
- b. 9                   Disk 8  
2002-m-084-009  
1 CD-R 58:53:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (594.44 Megabytes)  
[\[Aviary\] ms\\_1805\\_2002-m-084-009](#)  
As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) to request access
- 
- b. 10                  Disk 9  
2002-m-084-010  
1 CD-R 59:48:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (603.68 Megabytes)  
[\[Aviary\] ms\\_1805\\_2002-m-084-010](#)  
As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) to request access
- 
- b. 11                  Disk 10  
2002-m-084-011  
1 CD-R 59:07:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (596.71 Megabytes)  
[\[Aviary\] ms\\_1805\\_2002-m-084-011](#)  
As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) to request access
- 
- b. 12                  Disk 11  
2002-m-084-012  
1 CD-R 61:29:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (620.75 Megabytes)  
[\[Aviary\] ms\\_1805\\_2002-m-084-012](#)  
As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) to request access
- 
- b. 13                  Disk 12  
2002-m-084-013  
1 CD-R 59:50:00 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (593.91 Megabytes)  
[\[Aviary\] ms\\_1805\\_2002-m-084-013](#)  
As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) to request access
-

b. 14

Disk 13

2002-m-084-014

*1 Audio Disc (CD) 01:02:49 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm) (634.028  
megabytes)*

[\[Aviary\] ms\\_1805\\_2002-m-084-014](#)

As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access  
copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at  
[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu) to request access.

---



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

African Americans -- Politics and government  
Black power -- Connecticut -- New Haven

### **Geographic Names**

New Haven (Conn.) -- Politics and government  
New Haven (Conn.) -- Race relations

### **Names**

Grant, Edward  
Ruben, Justin